



Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52), National Broadband Plan
Notice of Inquiry (WC Docket 09-51)

October 15, 2009

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The National Broadband Plan has created a unique opportunity for the Commission to evaluate the state of broadband access in the United States, and consider what will drive further deployment and adoption. We represent the engine of the U.S. economy – small, diverse businesses employing millions of Americans who rely on broadband for their economic success. We appreciate the Commission's efforts thus far, and hope that your work will lead to ubiquitous broadband access for all Americans.

Broadband has greatly benefited the business groups that we represent. Home broadband connections create opportunities for entrepreneurship and expand the workforce to include working parents, the disabled, and the retired, who may prefer to work from home. Furthermore, broadband connects Americans to economic resources in their communities – making it easy for people to search for jobs online, participate in further skills training, and advertise their businesses. It is important that low-income Americans have the ability to take advantage of these opportunities and attain economic success.

More broadly, in today's economic climate, broadband has been a bright spot. Despite the economic downturn, providers are still investing billions of dollars annually to build

out infrastructure to reach new Americans which, in turn, is maintaining and creating hundreds of thousands of American jobs.

However, we are worried about the potential consequences that net neutrality regulations could have on small businesses and American consumers. The Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking could have detrimental effects on broadband price, adoption, and deployment. We urge the Commission to take a close look at how these rules would affect small businesses before taking any preemptive actions.

Rather than imposing rules that could jeopardize broadband access, the Commission should maintain its focus on bringing broadband to every home and business in the country. The stakes are far too high for this opportunity to go to waste.

Sincerely,

Harry C. Alford
President & CEO
National Black Chamber of Commerce

Javier Palomarez
President & CEO
US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Gina Robison-Billups
Founder/President
National Assoc For Moms In Business

Susan Au Allen
President & CEO
US Pan-Asian Chamber of Commerce

Chance Mitchell
Co-Founder & CEO
Justin G. Nelson
Co-Founder & President
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Bonnie Wong
President
Asian Women in Business